

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

Editor's note: News conference Tues., Nov. 15, 2:30 p.m., in Lincoln

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FOUR NEBRASKA SCHOOLS RECEIVE HealthierUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE AWARDS

Four Nebraska schools have received the HealthierUS School Challenge Award.

The following schools and school districts received Bronze Awards:

- Messiah Lutheran Elementary School in Lincoln
- Hartington Public Schools in Hartington
- Palisade Attendance Center, Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools, in Chase County
- Wauneta Attendance Center, Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools, in Chase County

Messiah Lutheran Elementary School was named a Bronze Award recipient in May and will be recognized during a Nov. 15, 2:30 p.m., news conference in Lincoln. Hartington Public Schools and the Palisade and Wauneta attendance centers were named Bronze Award recipients in June and will be recognized by the Nebraska Department of Education, Nutrition Services, at a later time.

Nebraska's First Lady Sally Ganem, Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler and U.S. Department of Agriculture representatives will speak at the Nov. 15 news conference as well as representatives of Messiah Lutheran Elementary School and the Nebraska Department of Education.

The 2:30 p.m. news conference will be held in the church sanctuary at Messiah Lutheran Elementary School, 1800 S. 84th St., in Lincoln. The school's principal, Matthew Stueber, will open the news conference, which will be part of an all school assembly.

The HealthierUS School Challenge is a voluntary initiative established in 2004 to recognize those schools that have created healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity. The award is given to schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. In 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama introduced Let's Move!, incorporating the HealthierUS School Challenge into her campaign to raise a healthier generation of children.

Schools that receive the award hold the certification for four years and also receive an award plaque and \$500 for the Bronze Award. The award recognizes schools for improving the quality of food that they serve at school, providing students nutrition education and for providing physical education and physical

activity opportunities for students. More information about HealthierUS School Challenge is available at:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS>.